

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 182284
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:SJLEDOGAR
APPROVED BY EUR - JEGOODBY
EUR/WE:MCRAMERUS
-----096429 191637Z /43

P 191528Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182284

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, FR , CSCE

SUBJECT: FRENCH RESTRICTIONS ON NATO CONSULTATION"

REFS: (A) PARIS 21671
(B) USNATO 6724

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS BROAD GUIDANCE ON HOW
TO DEAL WITH FRENCH ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS WITH REGARD
TO QUESTIONS OF NATO CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES AND OBJEC-
TIVES. IN BRIEF, WE SHOULD REMAIN CALM, ALOOF, KEEPING
OTHER ALLIES OUT FRONT, AND WE SHOULD AVOID ANY DIRECT
DISCUSSION OF THIS MATTER BILATERALLY WITH THE FRENCH.
AT THE SAME TIME, WHEN U.S. VIEWS ARE SOUGHT IN NATO
FORUMS OR BILATERALLY BY OTHER ALLIES, WE SHOULD MAKE
CLEAR WE REGARD NATO CONSULTATIVE TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES
AS MATTERS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE, AND THAT THE UNITED STATES
WILL MAINTAIN ITS POSITION IN FAVOR OF ENHANCED CONSULTA-
TIONS, STANDING FIRMLY WITH THE MAJORITY OF ALLIES WHICH
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FAVORS CONSERVING USEFUL TRADITIONS. WE SEEK NO CON-
FRONTATION WITH FRANCE AND WILL GO TO SOME LENGTHS TO
AVOID ONE, BUT WE WILL STOP SHORT OF COMPROMISING ON

FUNDAMENTAL AND LONG ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES. END SUMMARY.

1. WE REGARD THE PROCESS OF NATO CONSULTATIONS AS VITAL

TO US INTERESTS. EVEN THOUGH WE GIVE A GOOD DEAL MORE THAN WE RECEIVE IN THE ALLIANCE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS, ITS VALUE TO THE UNITED STATES IS MUCH GREATER THAN THE RELATIVE FLOW OF TRAFFIC WOULD SUGGEST. IT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE SECURITY AND SOLIDITY OF NATO--THE KEYSTONE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY-- THAT WE HAVE A MECHANISM FOR RAPID AND EFFICIENT DISSEMINATION OF US VIEWS ON SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL IMPORTANCE, AS WELL AS FOR PROMPT ALLIED REACTION AND INTERREACTION TO THOSE VIEWS.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PROCESS AND THE MACHINERY BY WHICH IT IS CARRIED OUT MUST BE OF EQUAL OR POSSIBLY GREATER RELATIVE VALUE TO OTHER ALLIES. THE CONSERVATION AND BROADENING OF NATO CONSULTATIONS SHOULD NOT BE AN EXCLUSIVE US BURDEN. RATHER WE SHOULD STAND FIRM WITH THOSE WHO VALUE THE FORUM AND THE TRADITIONS

3. FROM THE WASHINGTON VIEWPOINT , IT IS NOT CLEAR FROM EVENTS USNATO HAS REPORTED THAT RECENT FRENCH CONDUCT REGARDING CSCE CONSULTATIONS CAN BE CHARACTERIZED (AS LUNS HAS DONE) AS "PART OF A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO HAMSTRING NATO". IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE FOR EXAMPLE (IN USNATO A-113) TINE SAID AT THE APRIL 27 NAC THAT FRANCE WAS FULLY PREPARED TO ENGAGE IN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS IN THE ALLIANCE CONTEXT IN CSCE MATTERS OTHER THAN MILITARY QUESTIONS, PROVIDED THESE CONSULTATIONS DO
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NOT HAVE AS THEIR OBJECTIVE THE ADOPTION OF POSITIONS, PROPOSALS, OR A COMMON TEXT. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE ALSO NOTE (COPENHAGEN 2466) THAT THE FRENCH HAVE TRIED TO P-R-SUADE THE ;INE THAT THEY SHOULD LIMIT THEIR CSCE EXCHANGES IN NATO BEFORE AND DURING MADRID "TO CONSULTATIONS", AND THAT ONLY THE MILITARY QUESTIONS COULD BE "COORDINATED" IN THE NATO FRAMEWORK. IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION, WE WOULD RECALL THAT THE LINE BETWEEN EXCHANGING VIEWS AND RECORDING FOR THE RECORD A SUMMATION OF THAT EXCHANGE ON THE ONE HAND AND REACHING A COMMON ALLIANCE POSITION FOR PUBLIC EXPLOITATION ON THE OTHER IS CLEAR AND WIDE ENOUGH TO WALK ALONG WITH EASE. WE DID SO FOR ALMOST A DECADE. A RESTORATION OF THE STATUS QUO ANTE-TINE

WOULD PUT US BACK ON THAT PATH.

4. THERE ALSO REMAINS THE IMPORTANT QUESTION AS TO WHAT EXTENT MR. TINE IS REFLECTING FUNDAMENTAL ATTITUDES AT THE QUAI AND THE ELYSEE WHEN HE DROPS SPANNERS INTO THE NATO CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY.

5. ACCORDINGLY, AND UNTIL FRENCH INTENTIONS ARE MORE CLEAR,

USNATO SHOULD EXERCISE ITS GOOD JUDGEMENT IN RESPONDING TO
TINE'S TACTICAL MOVES, BEINGGUIDED BY THE FOLLOWIN ASIC
PRINCIPLES:

(A) AS REGARDS THE QUESTION OF NATO CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE
MATTERS, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT FORCE A SHOW-
DOWN ON SUBSTANCE AND CERTAINLY NOT ON PROCEDURES.

(B) WE SHOULD TRY TO KEEP OTHER ALLIES BETWEEN US AND THE
FRENCH ON THIS ISSUE.

(C) AS EMBASSY PARIS RECOMMENDS, A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF
DEXTERITY IN CRAB-WALKING CAN BE USEFUL, PROVIDED IT IS
A SIDESTEP TO AVOID AN OBSTACLE AND NOT A BACKWARD STEP
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TO ACCOMMODATE ONE.

(D) MUTUAL FORTHCOMINGNESS IN CONSULTATIONS IS IN THE
GRAND TRADITION OF THE ALLIANCE. THE MAJORITY FAVOR THIS
TRADITION AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE SCOPE AND DEPTH
OF THE PROCESS. IT IS NOT CONFRONTATIONAL TO STAND
WITH THE MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF BROAD INTERPRETATIONS OF
OUR AGREEMENTS TO CONSULT.

(E) WE SHOULD AVOID ANY CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH WOULD CAUSE
EC-9 ALLIES TO FACE THE DILEMMA OF CHOOSING OPENLY BE-
TWEEN A FRENCH AND A US POSITION ON THIS MATTER;

(F) WE SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS ATTEMPTING TO USE OTHER
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6. WE ARE CURRENTLY REVIEWING OUR CSCE POLICIES AND WILL
BE PREPARING A PROGRAM OF SYSTEMATIC BILATERAL
CONSULTATIONS WITH NNAS AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES,
LOOKING AHEAD TO MADRID. IT WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH OUR
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WITH NON-NATO COUNTRIES. WE HAVE MADE NO DECISIONS,
HOWEVER, AS TO WHETHER WE WILL, IN FACT ENGAGE IN SUCH
CONSULTATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE PROCEDURAL
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CONSULTATIONS IF WE CONCLUDE THAT THIS IS DESIRABLE.

CHRISTOPHER

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

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DAFTED BY:EUR/RPM:JCKORNBLUM

APPROVED BY:EUR/RPM:JCKORNBLUM

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R 220451Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182284

FOR MADRID'S INFO

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED JULY 19,
1978 SENT ALL NATO CAPITALS IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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CHRISTOPHER UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, NEGOTIATIONS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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